

## ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

Depending on their respective size and power design wind power  
5 installations are relatively expensive capital investment items which are to be protected  
from ruin, damage or other causes which bring about failure of a wind power installation if  
the long service life promised for the wind power installation is to be attained. At the same  
time in relation to wind power installations there is always a wish to operate them at the  
maximum possible power output so that it is also possible to achieve an energy yield of  
10 maximum magnitude. Both aims, namely the long service life on the one hand and the  
highest possible energy yield on the other hand are in part in diametrically opposite  
relationship, but ultimately it would admittedly be basically possible for a wind power  
installation also to be operated partially in the overload range, whereby the energy yield  
thereof is increased, but at the same time this would also result in a marked curtailment in  
15 the service life. If in contrast a wind power installation is operated only in quite low wind  
speed ranges then the installation is certainly protected better than others, but it is  
inadequate from the point of view of its energy yield. The object of the invention is to  
provide measures and possible ways of protecting a wind power installation from damage  
or circumstances causing failure of a wind power installation, while however at the same  
20 time a maximum possible energy yield can also still be achieved. The invention further  
concerns a wind power installation having a SODAR system which is mounted to the pod  
of the wind power installation and which detects the region in front of the rotor of the wind  
power installation.

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